IDW

45

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

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SEGA®

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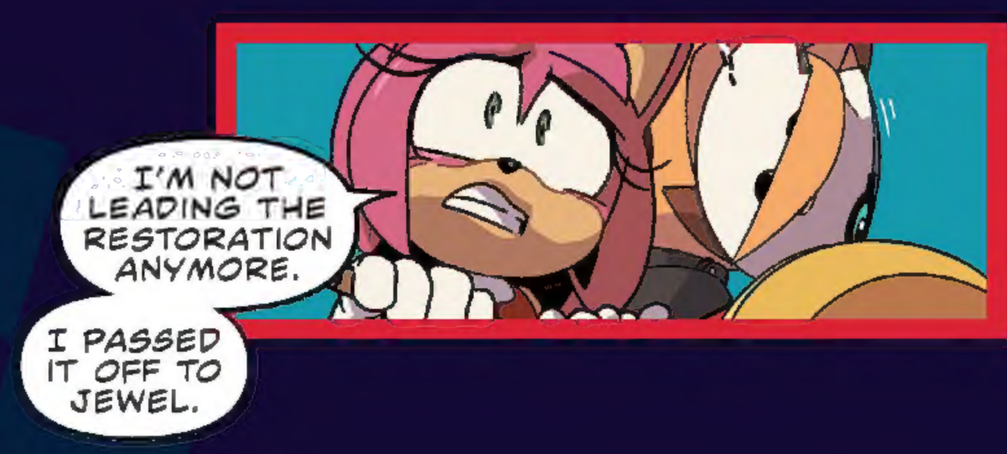
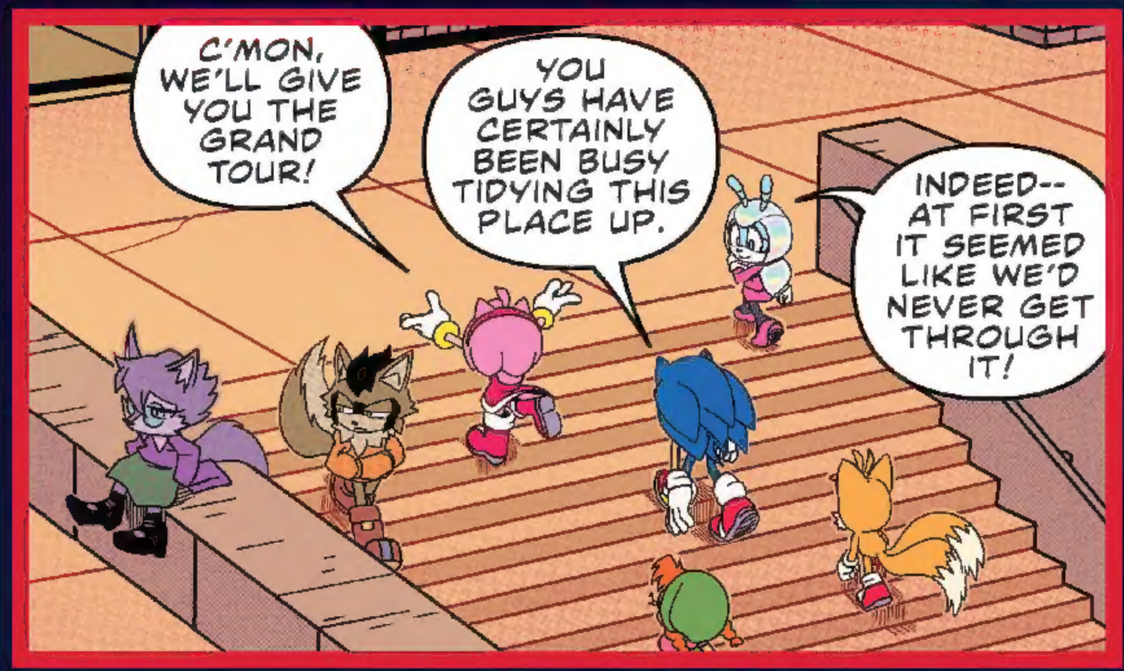
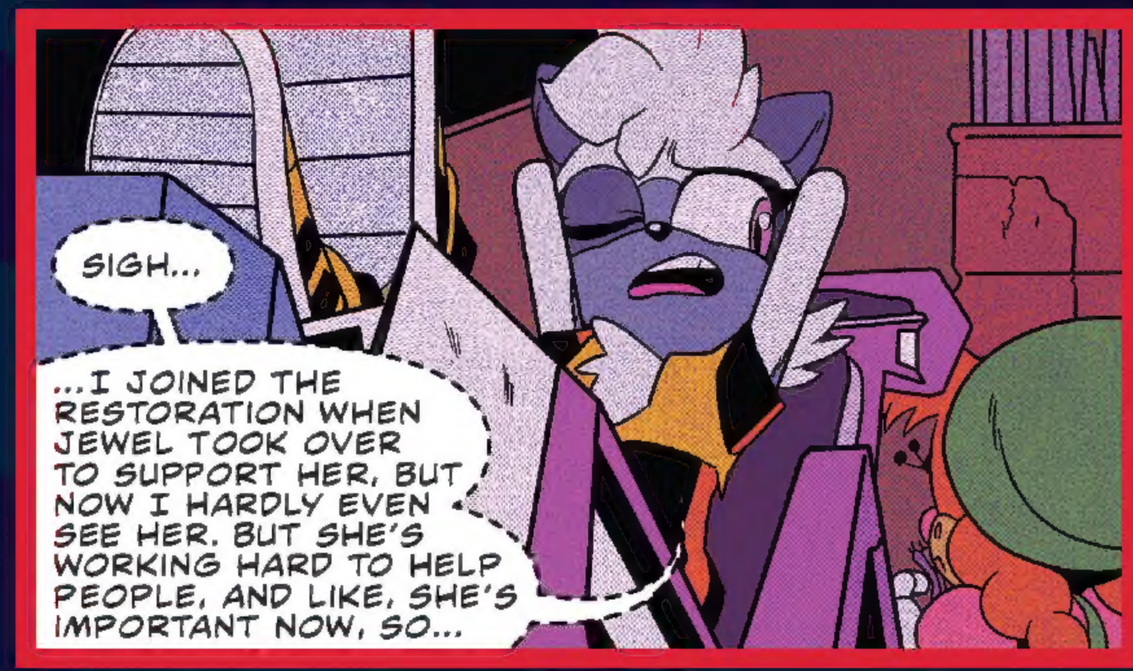
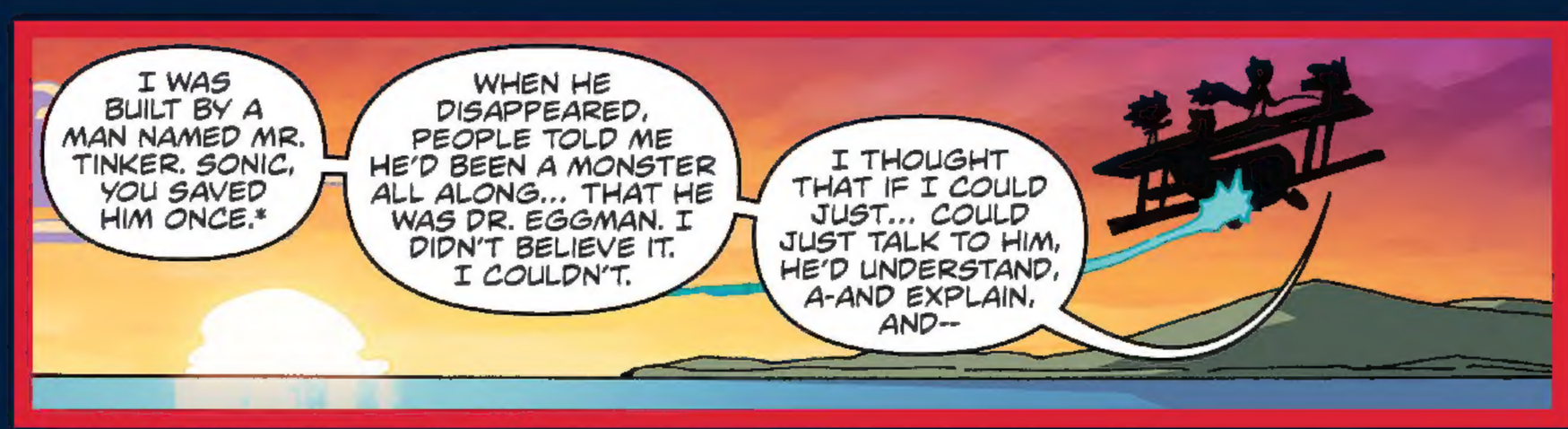
STORY SO FAR


I'M NOT LEADING THE RESTORATION ANYMORE.
I PASSED IT OFF TO JEWEL.


C'MON, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR!
YOU GUYS HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN BUSY TIDYING THIS PLACE UP.
INDEED-- AT FIRST IT SEEMED LIKE WE'D NEVER GET THROUGH IT!


SIGH...
...I JOINED THE RESTORATION WHEN JEWEL TOOK OVER TO SUPPORT HER, BUT NOW I HARDLY EVEN SEE HER. BUT SHE'S WORKING HARD TO HELP PEOPLE, AND LIKE, SHE'S IMPORTANT NOW, SO...

I WASN'T SURE BEFORE, BUT THIS PROVES IT. WHATEVER I WAS BUILT WITH, INSIDE... IT'S THE SAME AS THEM.
I AM A BADNIK.
BUT I... I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. I JUST NEED ANSWERS. AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW IS DR. EGGMAN.


I WAS BUILT BY A MAN NAMED MR. TINKER. SONIC, YOU SAVED HIM ONCE.*
WHEN HE DISAPPEARED, PEOPLE TOLD ME HE'D BEEN A MONSTER ALL ALONG... THAT HE WAS DR. EGGMAN. I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I COULDN'T.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD JUST... COULD JUST TALK TO HIM, HE'D UNDERSTAND, A-AND EXPLAIN, AND--

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

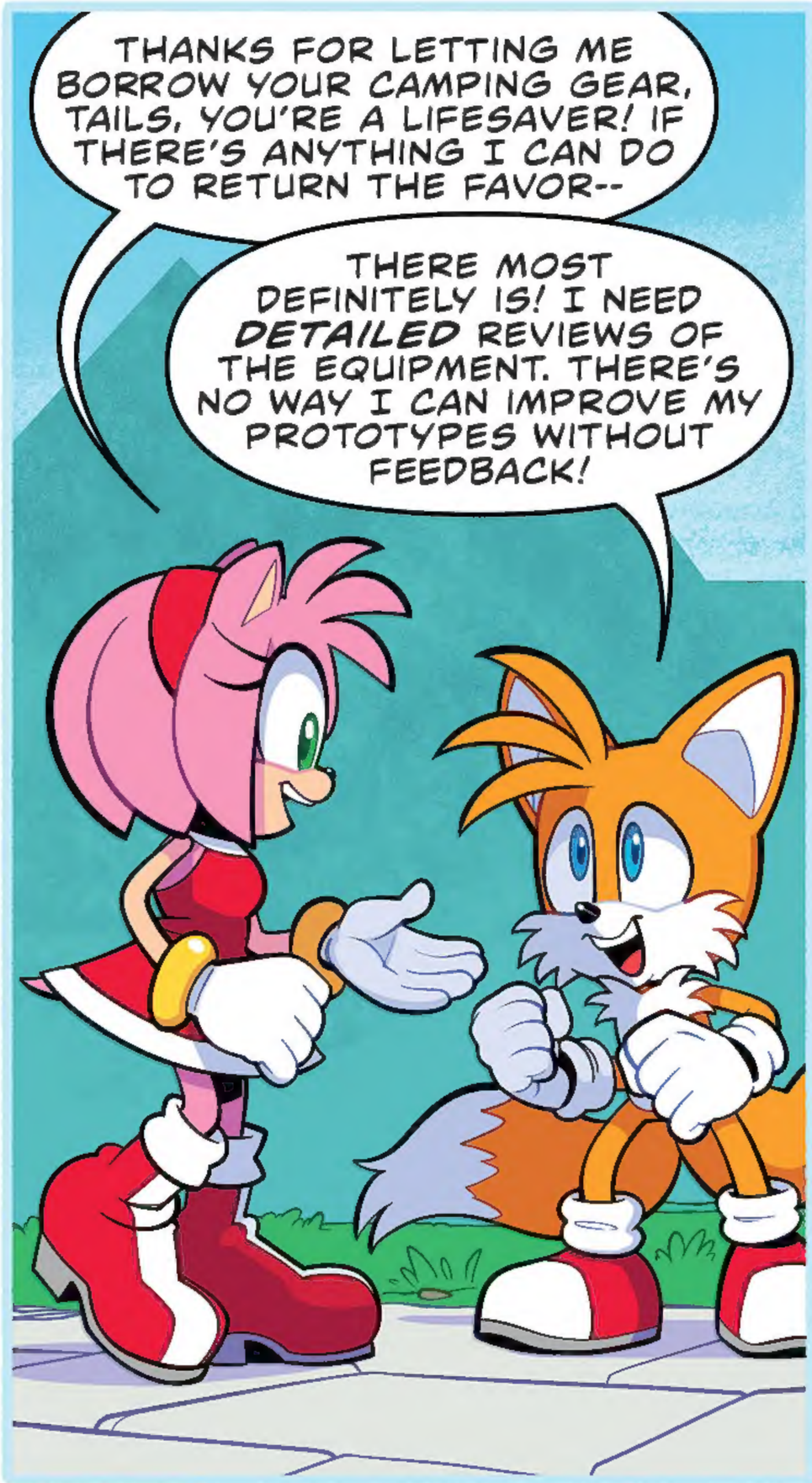
BELLE THE TINKERER
Clumsy Marionette.
Enthusiastic new-comer.

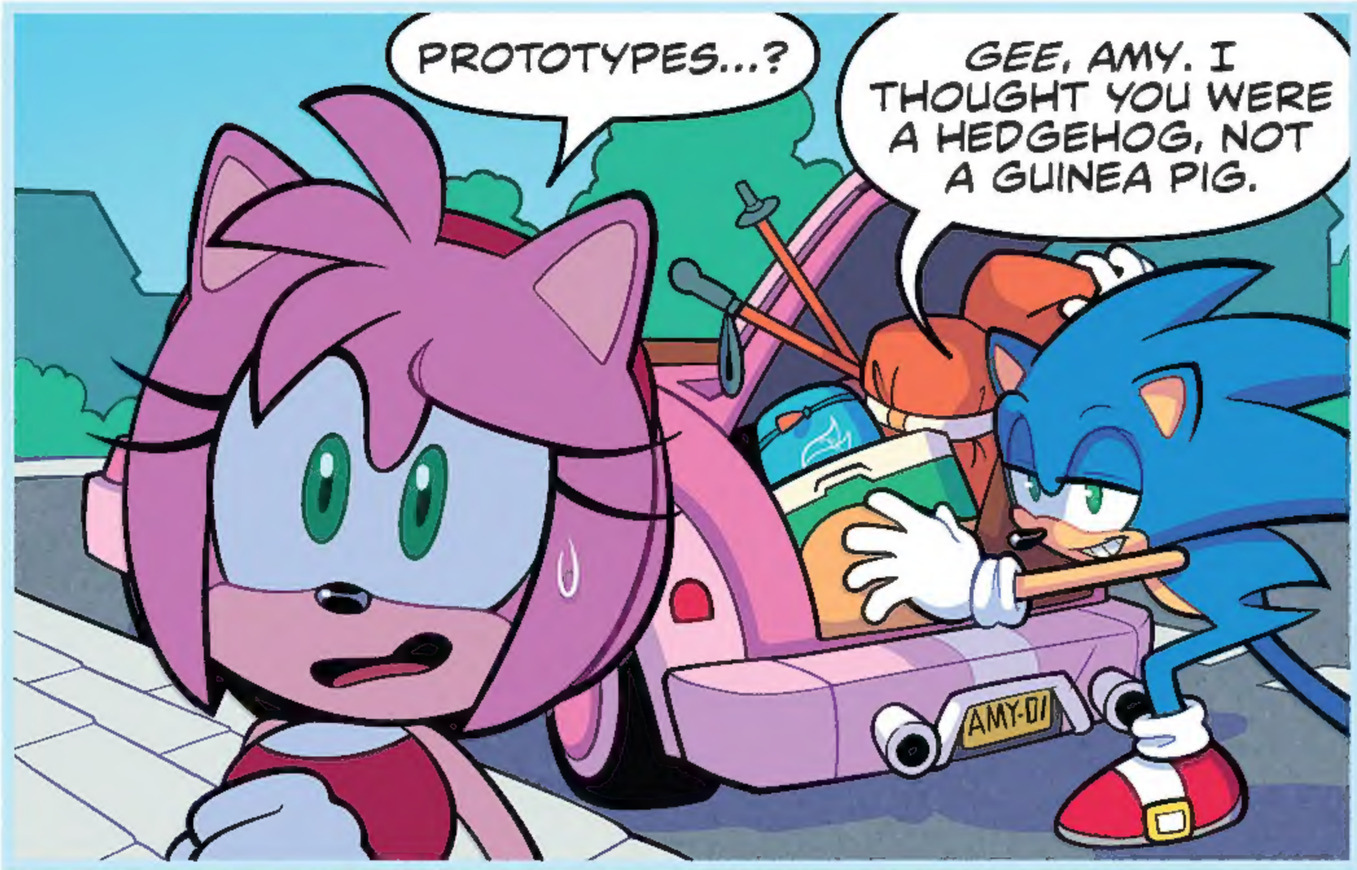
JEWEL THE BEETLE
Crystal Curator.
Tangle's best friend.

AMY ROSE
Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

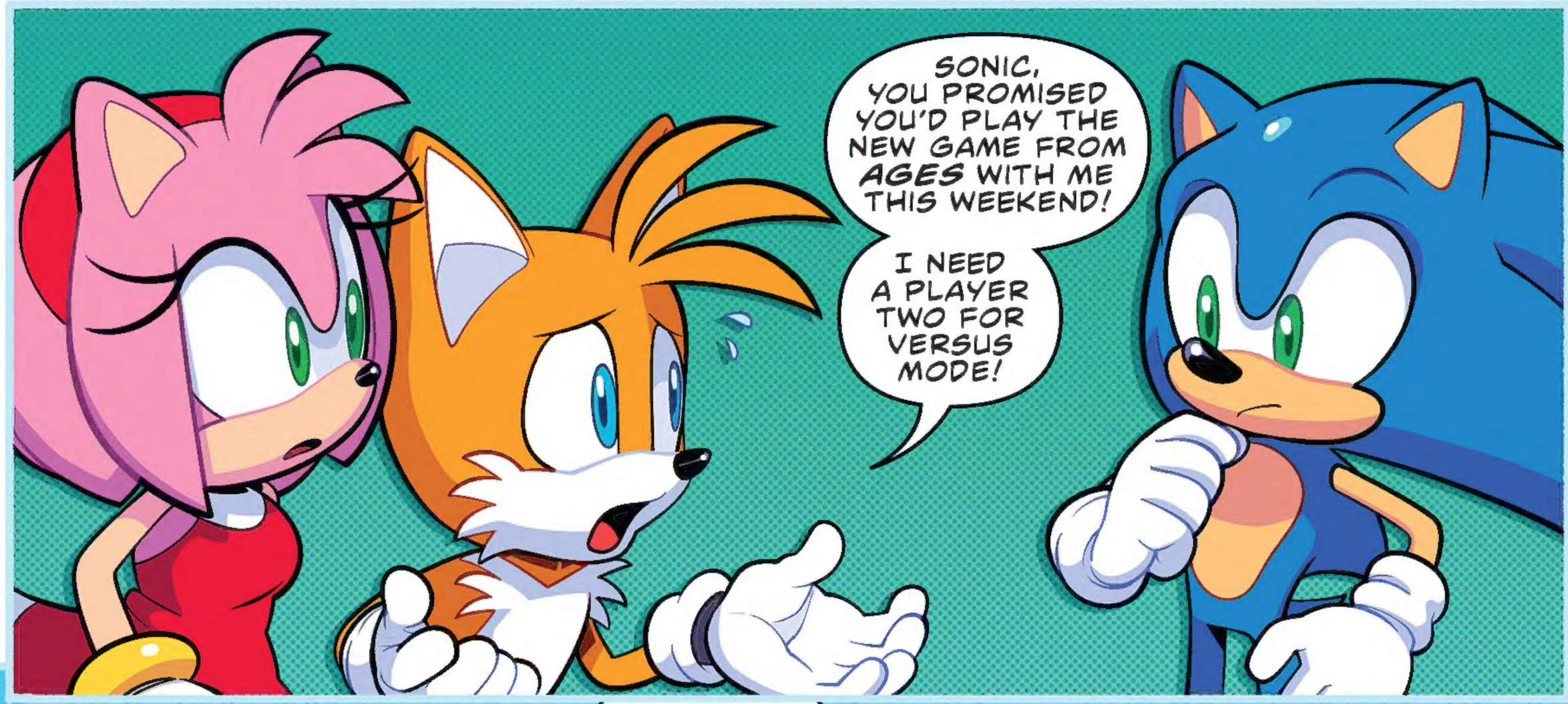
TANGLE THE LEMUR
Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.

HEY, AMY! WHERE DO YOU WANT THIS STUFF?
GOSH, THAT'S A LOT MORE THAN--
--IN THE TRUNK IS FINE!

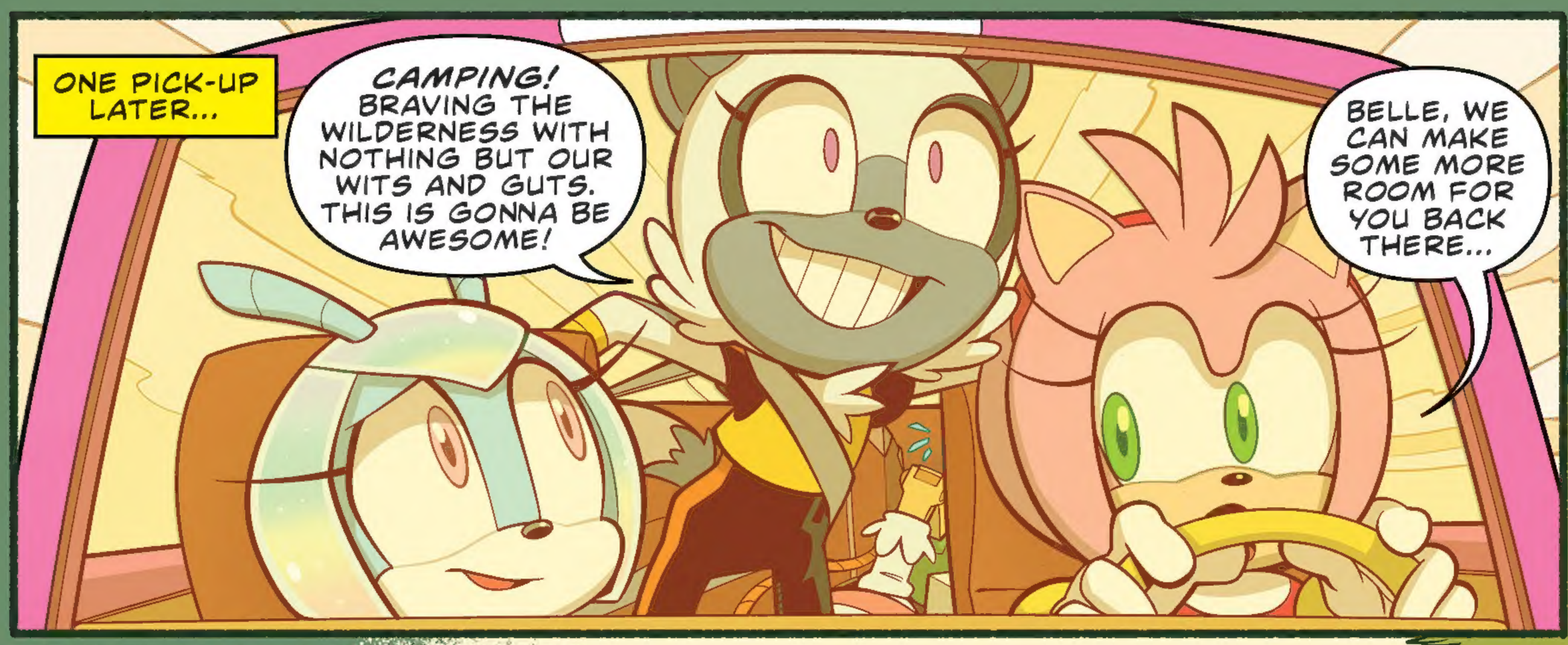

THANKS FOR LETTING ME BORROW YOUR CAMPING GEAR, TAILS, YOU'RE A LIFESAVER! IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO RETURN THE FAVOR--
THERE MOST DEFINITELY IS! I NEED DETAILED REVIEWS OF THE EQUIPMENT. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN IMPROVE MY PROTOTYPES WITHOUT FEEDBACK!


PROTOTYPES...?
GEE, AMY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE A HEDGEHOG, NOT A GUINEA PIG.
AMY-01

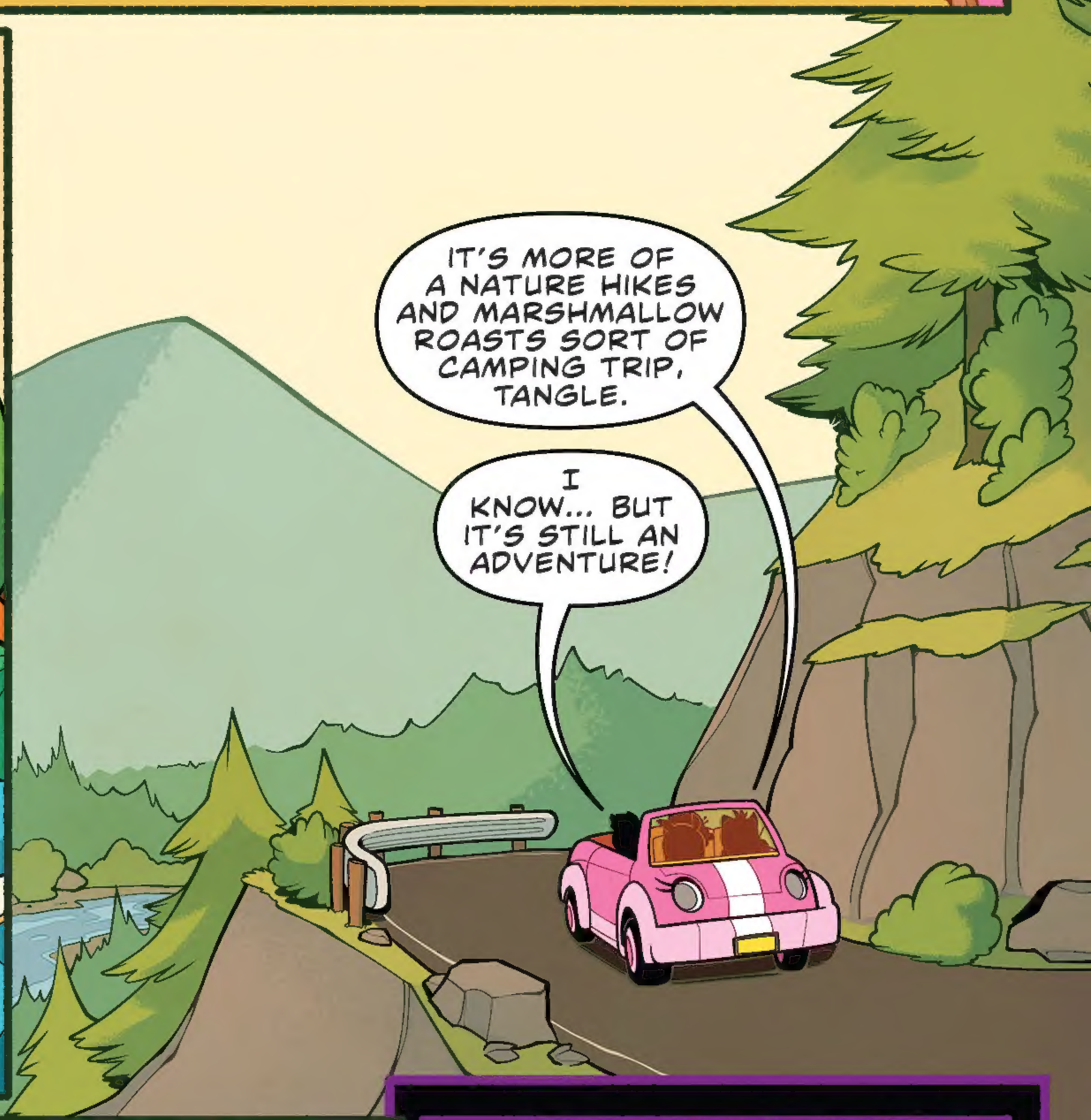
HUSH, YOU! I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE GIRLS AND I ARE HANGING OUT THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE SOME SORT OF BATTLE OR WILD SCHEME, AND I'M TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE!
IT DOES SOUND NICE... YOU CAN'T BEAT THE WILDFLOWERS IN THE ZONE PARK THIS TIME OF YEAR. MAYBE I SHOULD TAG ALONG...


SONIC, YOU PROMISED YOU'D PLAY THE NEW GAME FROM AGES WITH ME THIS WEEKEND!
I NEED A PLAYER TWO FOR VERSUS MODE!

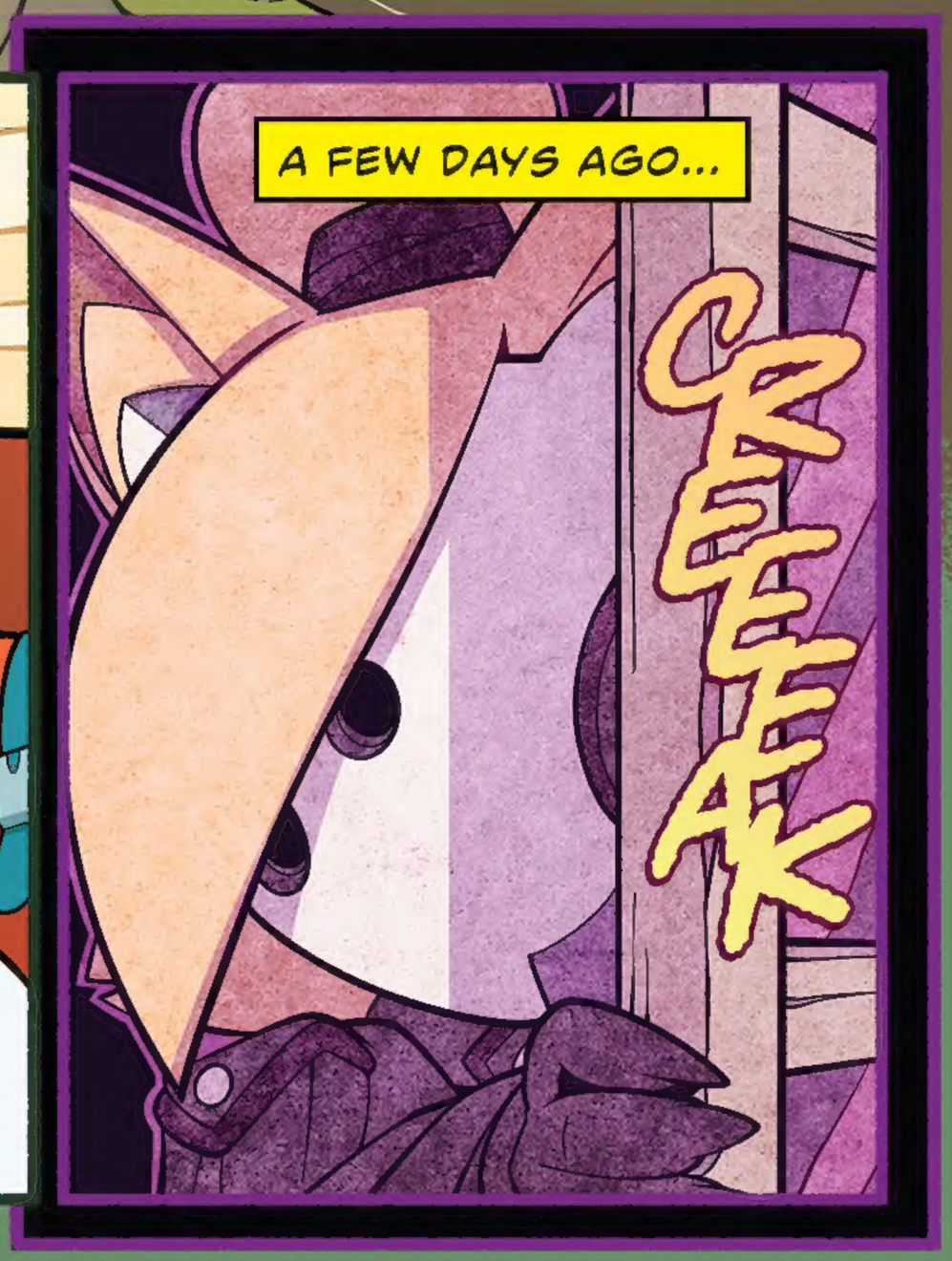
HE'S RIGHT, GUESS I'M BOOKED.
HAVE FUN, YOU TWO!

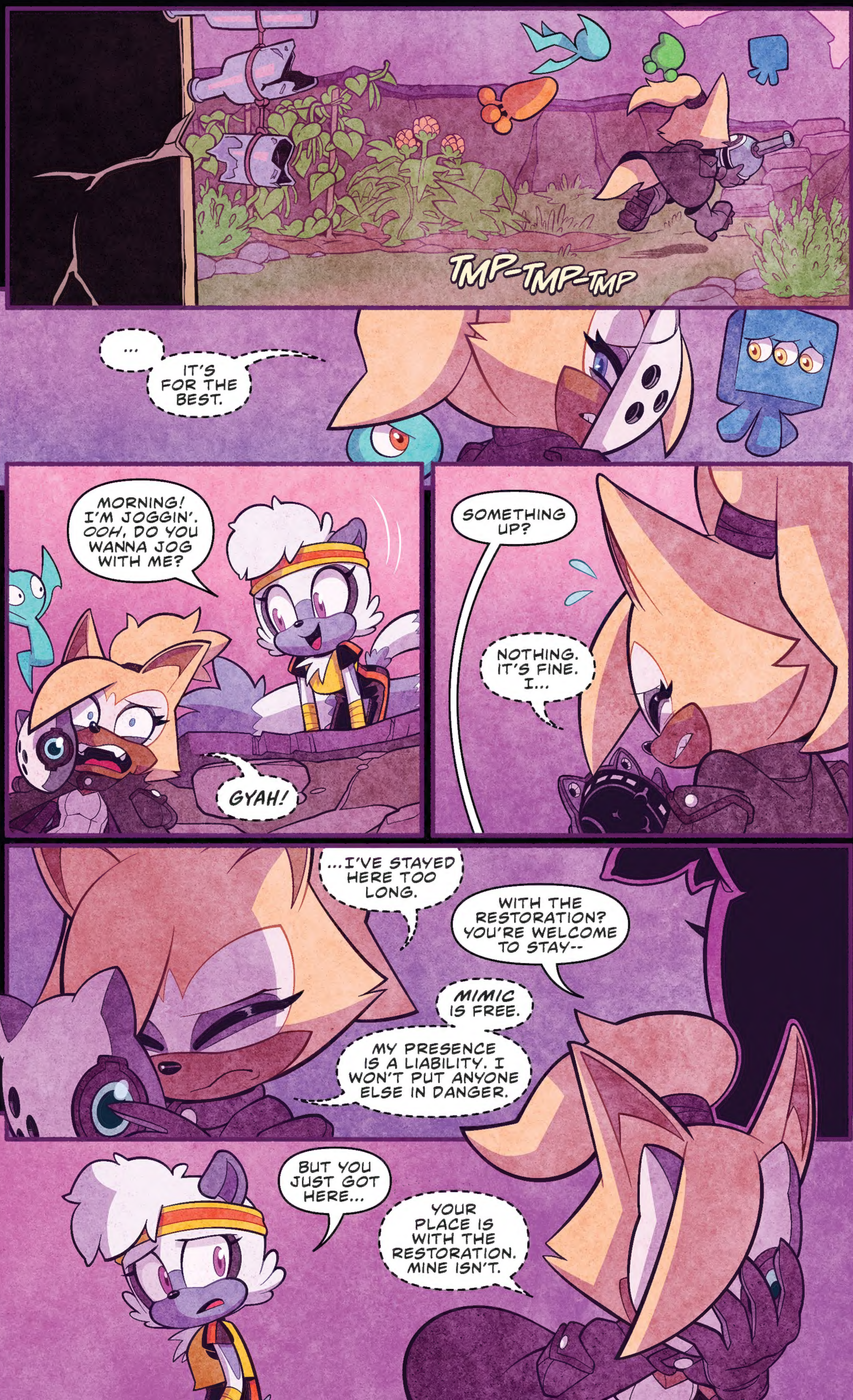

ONE PICK-UP LATER...
CAMPING! BRAVING THE WILDERNESS WITH NOTHING BUT OUR WITS AND GUTS. THIS IS GONNA BE AWESOME!
BELLE, WE CAN MAKE SOME MORE ROOM FOR YOU BACK THERE...

OH, NO! I-I'M OKAY!
SHOULD I HAVE BROUGHT A KNIFE?
I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A KNIFE.

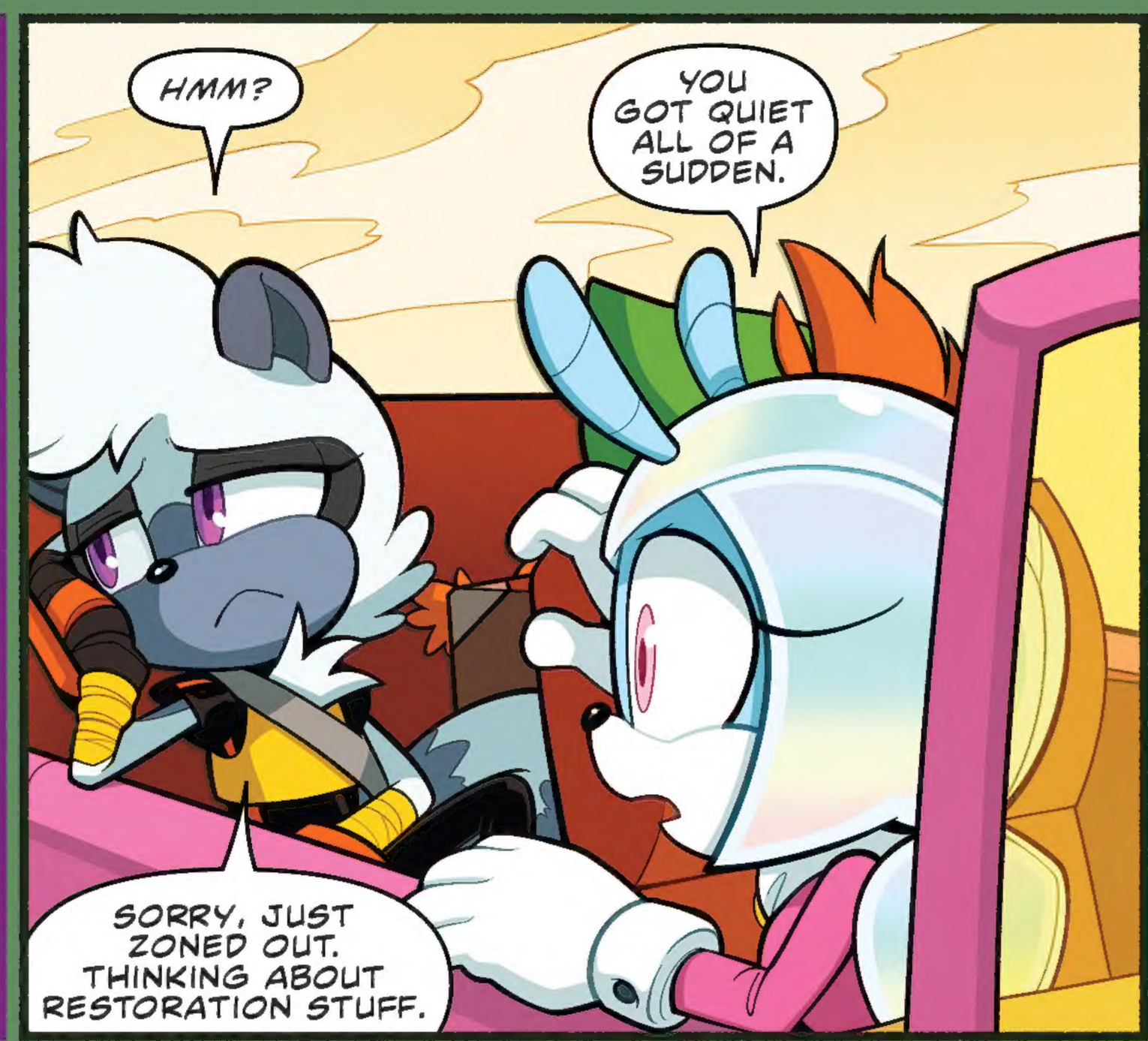

IT'S MORE OF A NATURE HIKES AND MARSHMALLOW ROASTS SORT OF CAMPING TRIP, TANGLE.
I KNOW... BUT IT'S STILL AN ADVENTURE!

OUT SEEING THE WORLD...


A FEW DAYS AGO...
CREEEAK

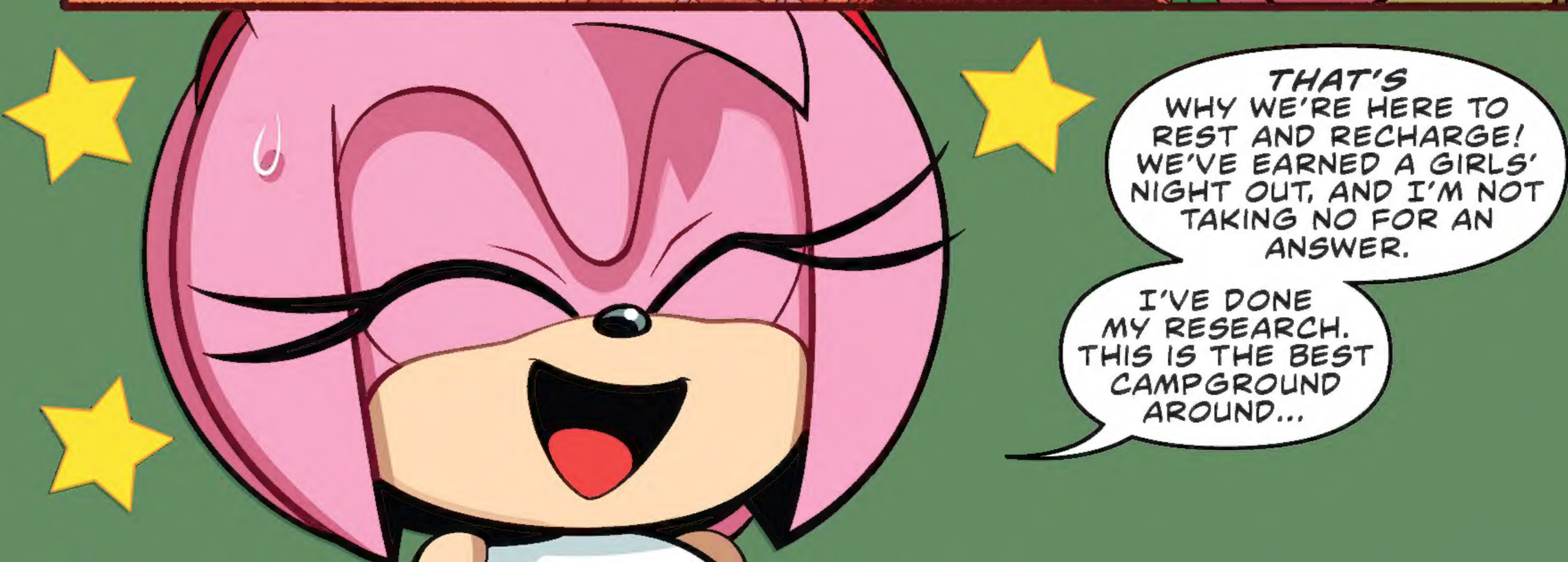

TMP-TMP-TMP
...
IT'S FOR THE BEST.
MORNING! I'M JOGGIN'. OOH, DO YOU WANNA JOG WITH ME?
GYAH!
SOMETHING UP?
NOTHING. IT'S FINE. I...
...I'VE STAYED HERE TOO LONG.
WITH THE RESTORATION? YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY--
MIMIC IS FREE.
MY PRESENCE IS A LIABILITY. I WON'T PUT ANYONE ELSE IN DANGER.
BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE...
YOUR PLACE IS WITH THE RESTORATION. MINE ISN'T.

"TANGLE?"


HMM?
YOU GOT QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN.
SORRY, JUST ZONED OUT. THINKING ABOUT RESTORATION STUFF.

I KNOW THE FEELING...
IT'S HARD TO TEAR YOURSELF AWAY FROM SUCH IMPORTANT WORK.

SURE... IMPORTANT.

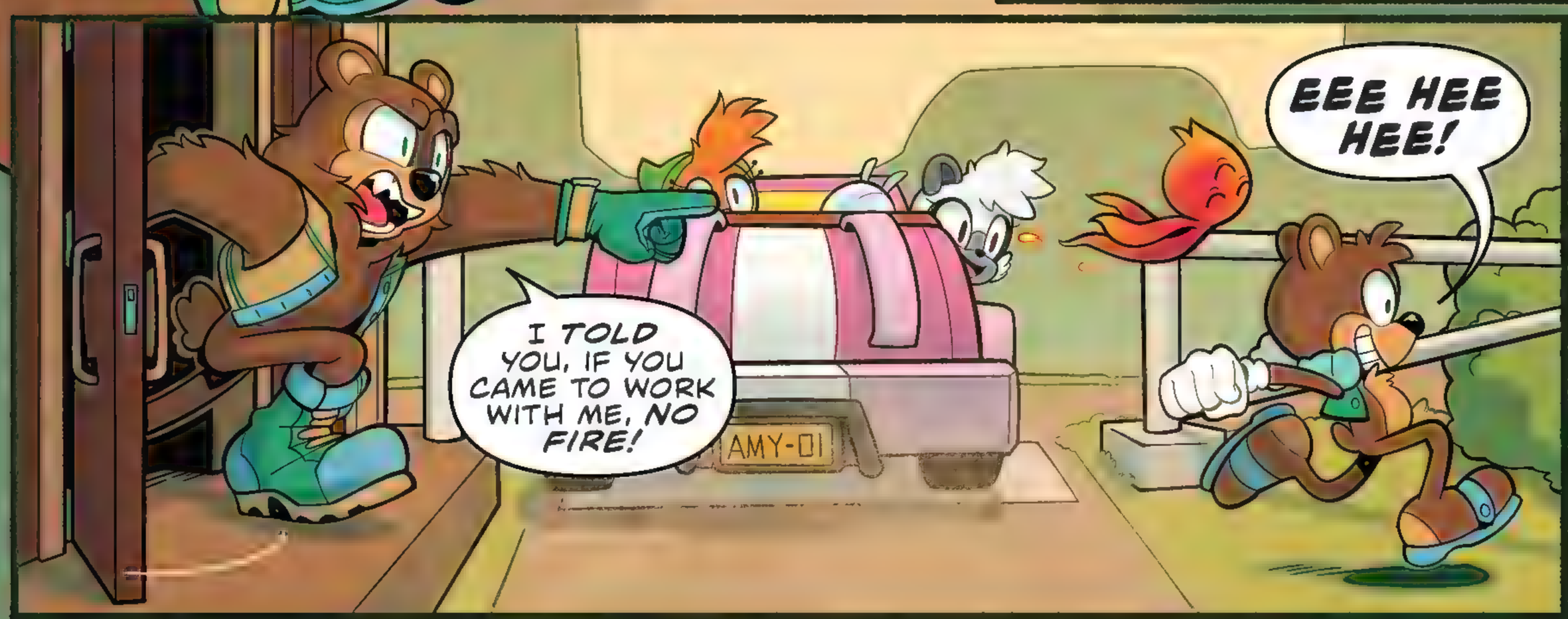

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE TO REST AND RECHARGE! WE'VE EARNED A GIRLS' NIGHT OUT, AND I'M NOT TAKING NO FOR AN ANSWER.
I'VE DONE MY RESEARCH. THIS IS THE BEST CAMPGROUND AROUND...

"...AND THAT'S AN AMY ROSE GUARANTEE!"
IT LOOKS AWFULLY BUSY.
THAT'S JUST PROOF THAT IT'S AN A+ CAMPGROUND!
FOREST RIDGE ZONE CAMPGROUND

MORE CAMPERS?
WE'VE GOT A RESERVATION FOR SITE #97?
GOOD FOR YOU. LISTEN, WE'VE GOT SOME NEW FIRE REGULATIONS IN PLACE THIS YEAR.

THE METAL VIRUS INFECTED THIS ENTIRE REGION THROUGH THE WINTER AND METAL PLANTS DON'T ABSORB WATER, SEE? SINCE THE AREA MISSED ITS HYDRATION LAST SEASON, WHOLE PARK IS BONE-DRY, AND SET TO GO UP.
FIRE IS ALLOWED ONLY IN MARKED AREAS, AND BE SURE TO FULLY DOUSE THE COALS BEFORE LEAVING THE CAMPSITE. AND NO BURNING TRASH, TAKE IT TO OVER HERE--

ASHE!
FWOOSH


I TOLD YOU, IF YOU CAME TO WORK WITH ME, NO FIRE!
AMY-01
EEE HEE HEE!

HALF OF THIS IS GEOMETRY EQUATIONS... WHO *WROTE* THIS?

SIGH

TRY THREADING THAT POLE IN--OOF!

WUZZAT?

WHAP

OOH...! IT'S JUST LIKE TAILS TO PACK ALL THESE HIGH-TECH BELLS AND WHISTLES, BUT FORGET THE *ESSENTIALS*.

SOMETHING'S MISSING?

YEAH, NO *MATCHES!*

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT... SEE?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'D RATHER NOT.

IT COMES IN HANDY, BUT IT'S STILL A LITTLE NERVE-WRACKING WHEN YOU'RE MADE OF *WOOD*.

SORRY... I KNOW YOU WANT EVERYBODY TO BE HAVING A GOOD TIME.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! AND DON'T WORRY...

"...I'VE GOT A TRICK UP MY SLEEVE!"

SO... HOW'D PITCHING THE TENT GO?

...

TANGLE? THE FIRE, IT'S...

WHUH-- OH!

ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN DISTRACTED ALL DAY.

I CAN HANDLE IT, JEWEL! I'VE JUST GOT SOME STUFF TO THINK ABOUT.

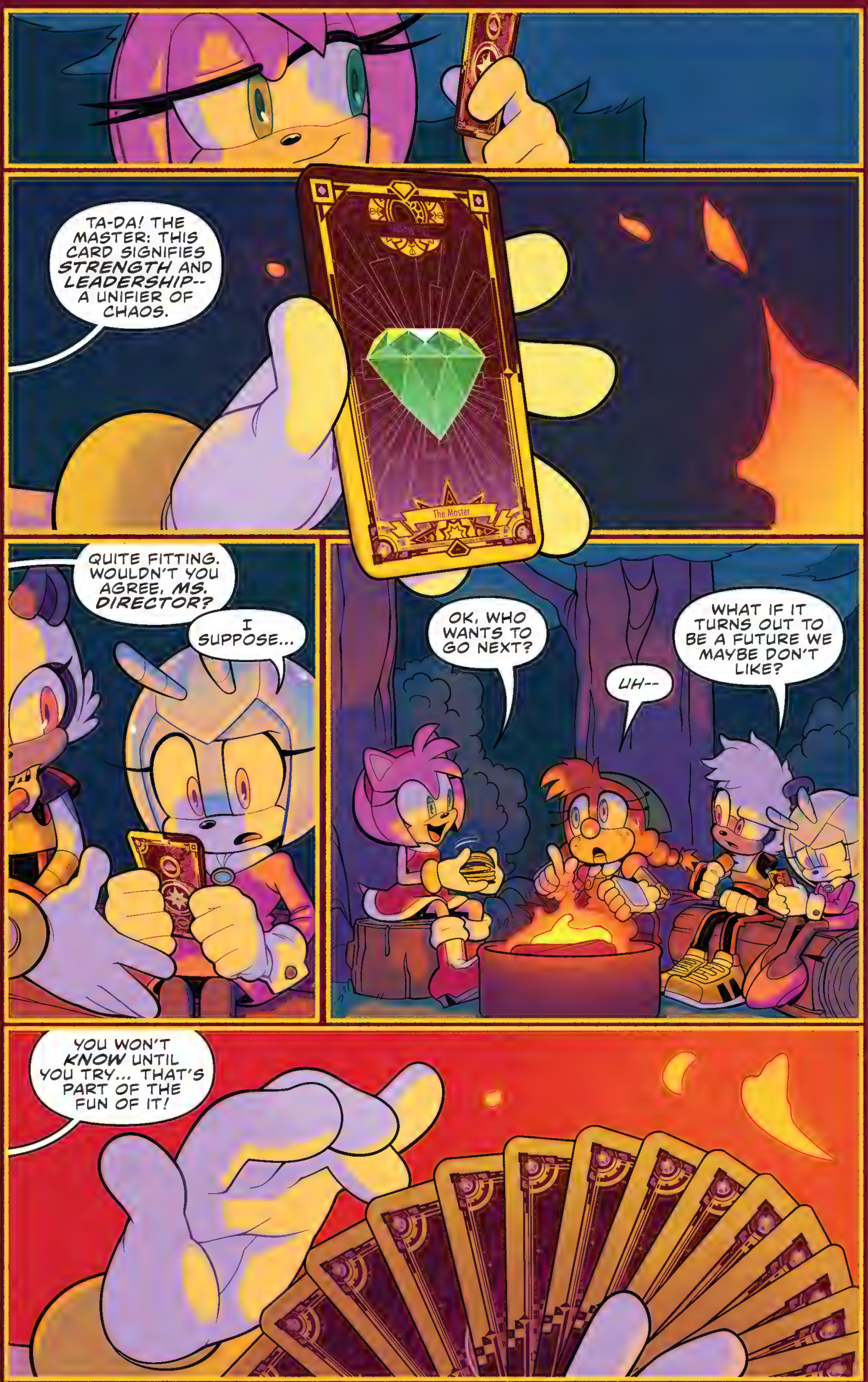
I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

ALL RIGHT! WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET THIS NIGHT STARTED?

UMM... HOW?

WITH THESE!

WHOA!
ARE THOSE FORTUNE CARDS?
YEP! AND I'M AN EXPERT PRACTITIONER, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF. THESE CARDS LED ME TO SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!
ACHOO
THROUGH THESE CARDS...
...I CAN UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF YOUR DESTINY!
YOU CAN REALLY PREDICT THE FUTURE?
IT'S MORE ABOUT SUGGESTION; PRESENT SOMEONE WITH AN OPEN-ENDED "PREDICTION," AND THEY'LL ASSOCIATE IT WITH THEIR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCES.
AH! YOU DOUBT MY POWER?
MAYBE A DEMONSTRATION WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND!

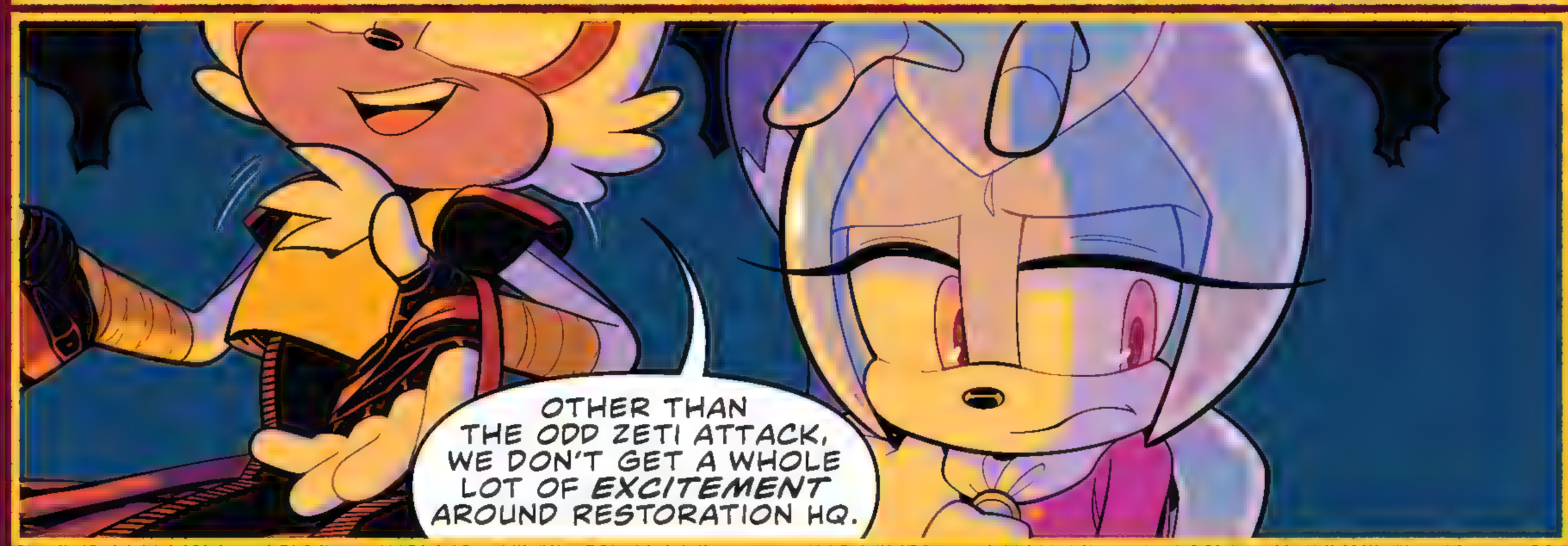

TA-DA! THE MASTER: THIS CARD SIGNIFIES STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP-- A UNIFIER OF CHAOS.
The Master
QUITE FITTING. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, MS. DIRECTOR?
I SUPPOSE...
OK, WHO WANTS TO GO NEXT?
UH--
WHAT IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE A FUTURE WE MAYBE DON'T LIKE?
YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY... THAT'S PART OF THE FUN OF IT!

HUH! NOW THAT'S INTERESTING.

WHAT'S IT SAY?
THIS CARD IS THE CHAO'S FRUIT.

Chao's Fruit
THIS ONE'S ALL ABOUT THE BALANCE OF OPPOSING SIDES, SO IT CAN MEAN MANY THINGS! A SHOWDOWN, A MORAL DILEMMA, MAYBE A PARTNERSHIP...

...DOES ANY OF THAT SOUND FAMILIAR TO YOU?
HMM... I DON'T THINK SO.

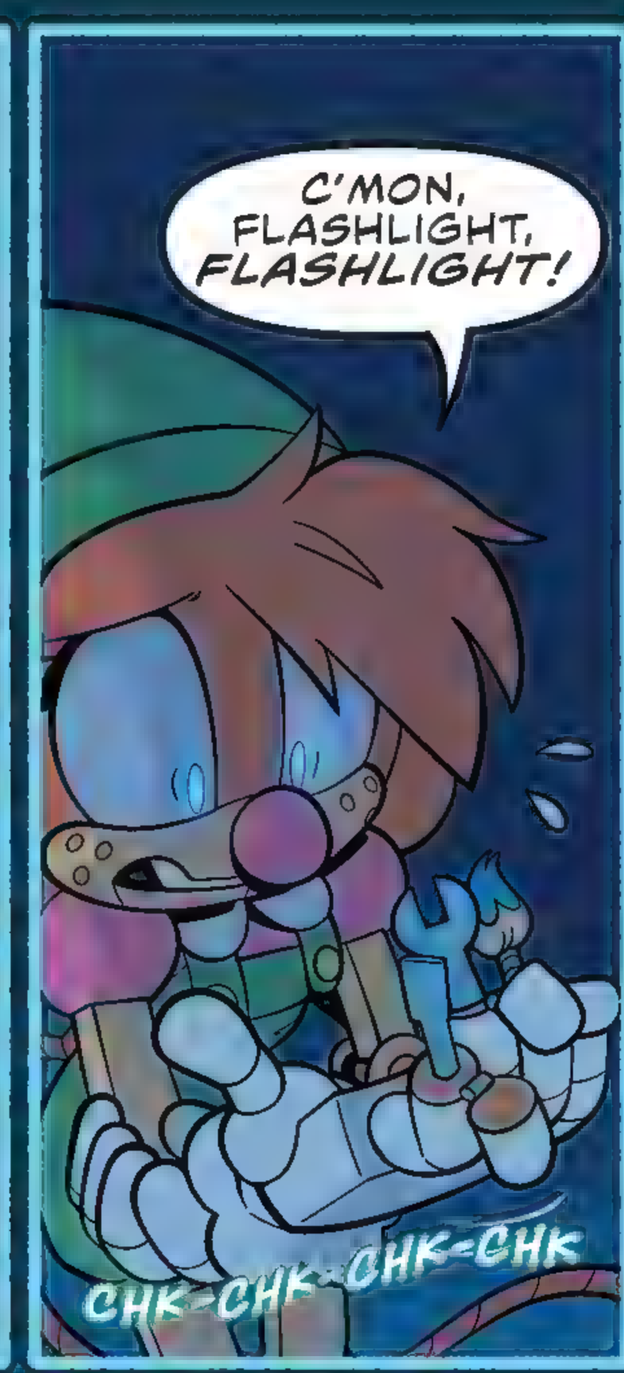

OTHER THAN THE ODD ZETI ATTACK, WE DON'T GET A WHOLE LOT OF *EXCITEMENT* AROUND RESTORATION HQ.

DO YOU... DO YOU THINK THE CARDS WORK ON ROBOTS?
OF COURSE!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE OPEN, THE CARDS WON'T STEER YOU--
!
WHAT? IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT MY DAD?
YEEK!
AH, HA HA! IT'S FINE, I--
Fbbt

KRACKLE KRACKLE
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
YOU'RE FINE! AND THE FORTUNE, IT WAS GOOD! YOU DREW THE UH, THE STATUE SAVIOR. IT'S ALL ABOUT MERCY AND PROTECTION.
THAT'S PERFECT FOR THE RESTORATION! ESPECIALLY WITH JEWEL IN CHARGE.
...IT'S LATE. I'M GOING TO TURN IN.
IT'S NOT THAT LATE! C'MON, STAY UP A BIT LONGER!
YOU KNOW I'M NOT A NIGHT OWL, TANGLE.

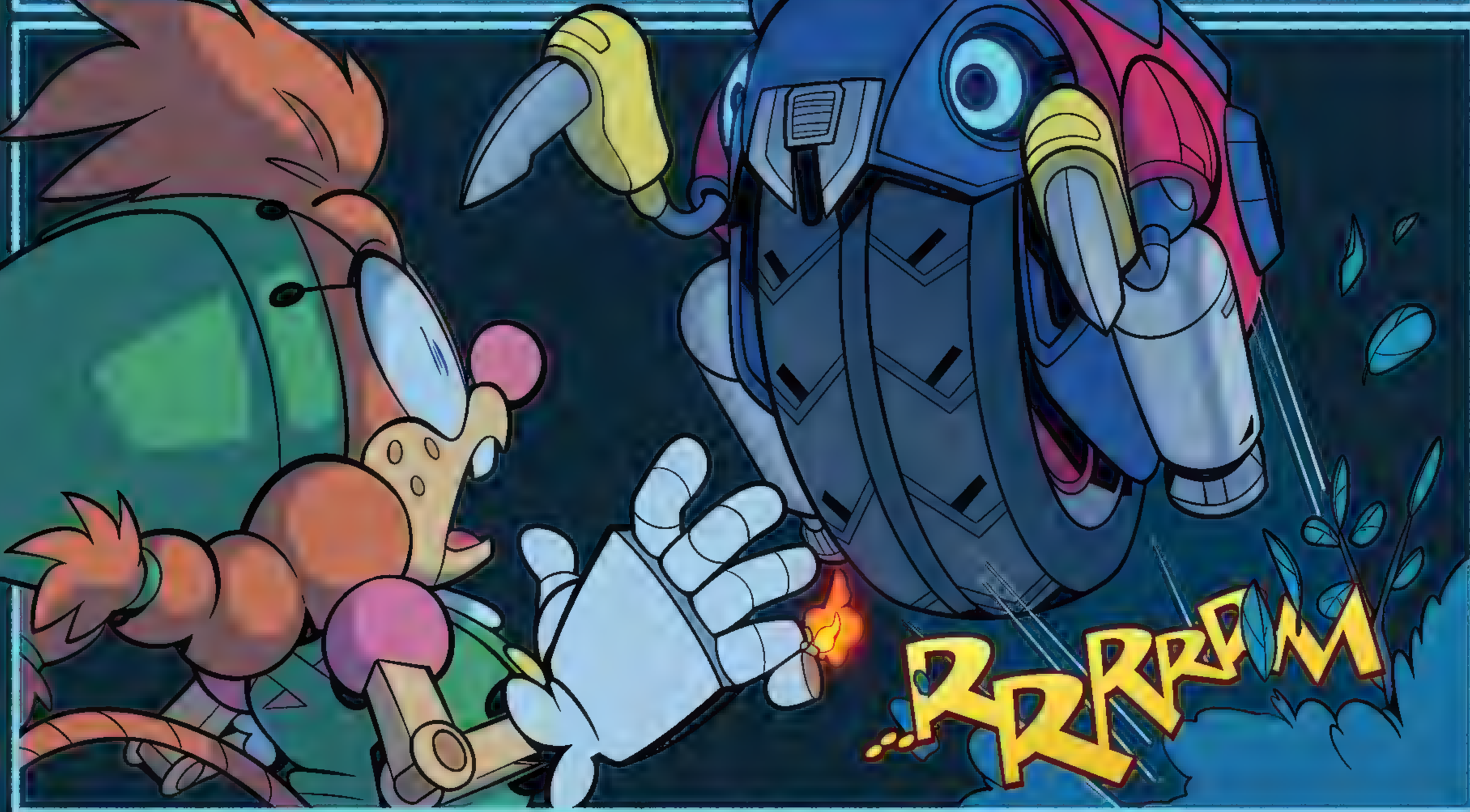
:SIGH:
ZIP
...THAT'S DIFFERENT.

KRAK
YEEK!
RUSTLE RUSTLE


C'MON, FLASHLIGHT, FLASHLIGHT!
CHK-CHK-CHK-CHK

SAWDUST.
KA-CHAK

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE BE NICE...
RRRRRRRRR...


...RRRRRM

GYAH!

THOK

ZZT

KRRM

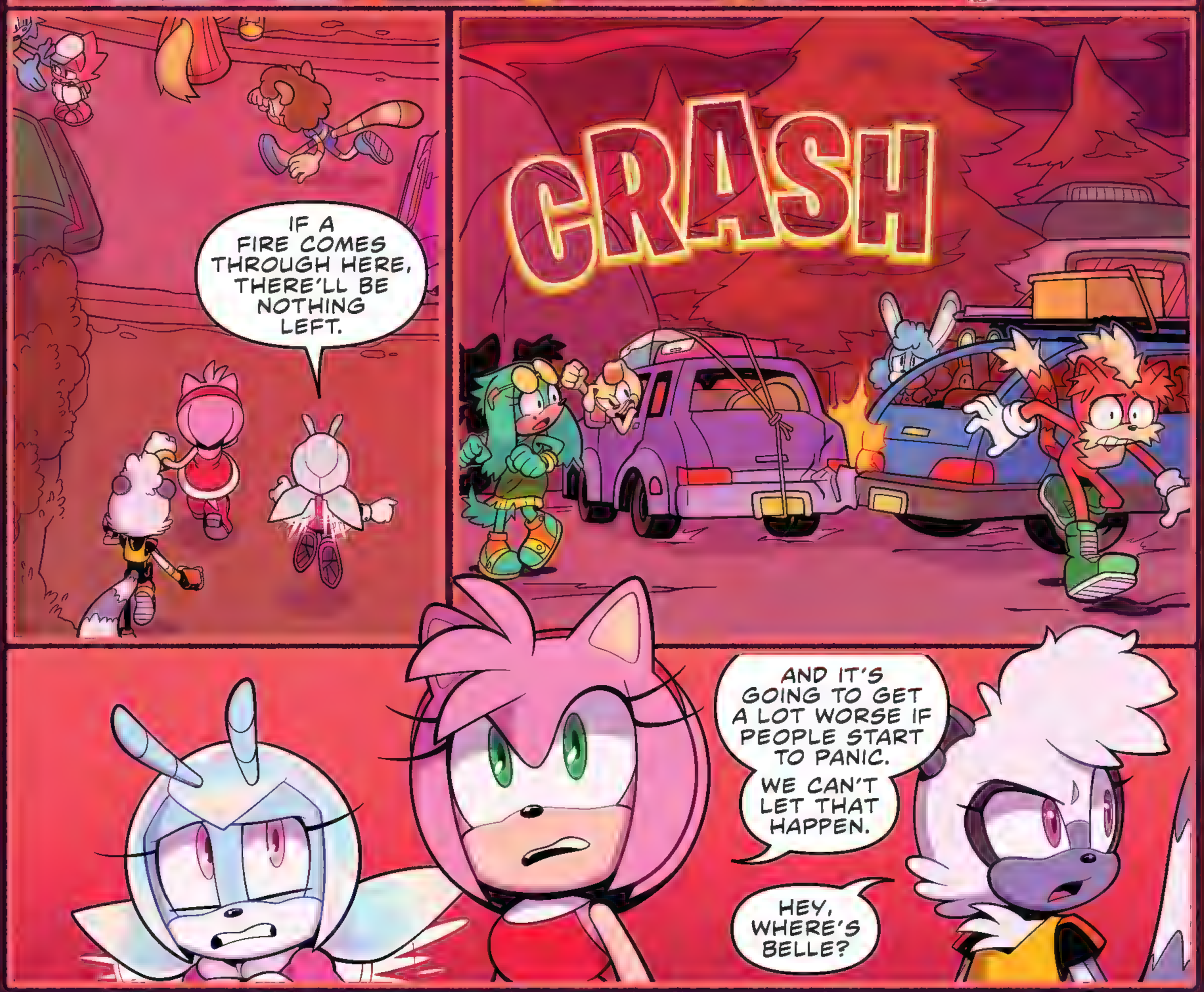
ZZZIP

GEEZ, THAT SMELL... WHO STARTS A BONFIRE AT SAM?

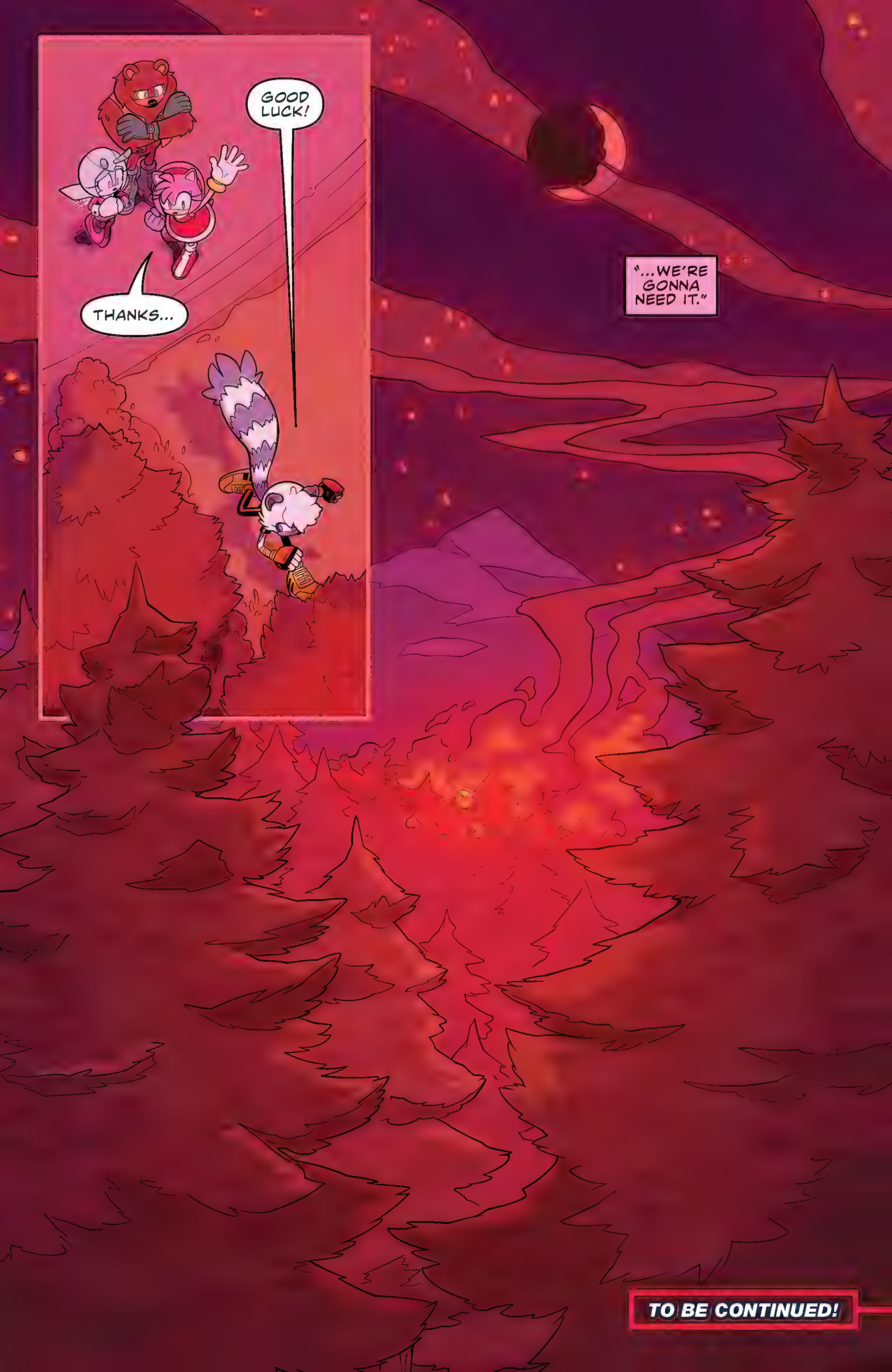
OH...!

GET UP, QUICK!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SNIFF IS THAT SMOKE?

OH, MAN...


IF A FIRE COMES THROUGH HERE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT.
CRASH
AND IT'S GOING TO GET A LOT WORSE IF PEOPLE START TO PANIC.
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
HEY, WHERE'S BELLE?

ASHE! ANSWER ME!
SHE WASN'T BEHIND YOU?
THE RANGER MUST HAVE A PLAN!
FMA-03
WHERE ARE YOU?!
SIR! IS THERE A--
MY SON--HE'S MISSING! I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
HE'S ALWAYS WANDERING OFF INTO THE WOODS...
I'LL GO FIND HIM.
ARE YOU SURE?
SURE I'M SURE--OUT THERE IS WHERE I CAN DO THE MOST GOOD.
YOU CAN TRUST TANGLE TO HANDLE IT. WITH TANGLE ON SEARCH & RESCUE, CAN YOU HELP US GET EVERYONE TO SAFETY?
...YEAH. OKAY.


GOOD LUCK!
THANKS...
"...WE'RE GONNA NEED IT."
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Greetings, campers! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Matt Froese, Reggie Graham, and Shawn Lee for the first part of "Trial by Fire"! Now, the fortune cards are telling me... it's time to look at your letters and art, as well as learn a bit more about cover artist Diana Skelly!

Hello to the IDW Sonic team!

I've been a fan of the Sonic franchise for many, many years now and I can say without a doubt that this comic series is my favorite thing happening for the blue blur since it began. The writing has been absolutely superb and the art, wonderfully drawn! I've been writing an ongoing story for the past 8 years now, and IDW Sonic alone has been the biggest source of inspiration for my creativity. I'm even more inspired to write than before and am even now trying my hand at art. Still have a long way to go on that one, haha.

My favorite character in this entire series is Belle the Tinkerer. I absolutely adore her design and concept so much and love where her story has been going. Keeping my fingers crossed that once her character arc is complete that she'll stay in the rest of the series for many years to come as a regular character. She's just so good!

Thank you to everyone on the team for giving us thousands of Sonic fans something to enjoy each month and for being my biggest inspiration. I'm incredibly grateful for everything you all do!

MSP169

Hello!

Wow! It's so lovely to hear that our comics have inspired you to create your own story. Eight years is a long amount of time to commit to a story, so I can only imagine the amount of love and passion you've put into it–I bet it's wonderful!

It's also lovely to hear that you love Belle! Original characters don't have decades of stories to build up loyalty, so when readers are excited about them, it's very heart warming. We certainly have a lot of plans for Belle and other original characters in the future, especially if fans continue to love them.

Thank you for your art and letters!

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, things heat up as the girls try to extinguish the fire.

CREATOR CORNER:
DIANA SKELLY

What part of the Sonic comics do you create?

Mostly covers, occasionally pencils for interiors. I try to paint covers allude to events within the story without spoiling them; something faithful to the story's tone, but still hype up the story. It's cool that I get to have that much say in that when working for IDW. Many times the editor already has a design in mind or you're working before the rest of the book is finished.

Who's your favorite Sonic character in the IDW books?

Whisper. Something about a blunt, pragmatic character with a vulnerable side bounces off of other characters well. The parasocial platypus is cool too.

How do you take your chili dog?

Never had one before. I do like chili. Preferably with cheese and bacon bits sprinkled on top.

How did you first discover Sonic?

I think I discovered Sonic through reruns of [one of the Sonic the Hedgehog cartoons, distinguished by fans as] SATAM. It was very different from the games.

What was the first IDW Sonic issue you worked on?

That would be one of the variant covers for *Sonic the Hedgehog* #15. It's the one where Amy escorts Sonic down some stairs, and Sonic's shadow is looming over Amy… You could say it was… foreshadowing. I drew the line art, Elaina Unger provided the beautiful colors.

What's a boring fact about yourself?

Evidently, one of my lower teeth has two extra nerve tendrils. This mutation changes nothing. Though, that tooth has always felt as if it were loose, despite being extra firmly rooted in my jaw.

What's your favorite comic (besides Sonic)?

Bone is definitely a classic. A blend of high fantasy and comedy, eases into more complex themes as it goes on, and it got to tell the story it wanted to tell.

What do you do when you're not drawing working on Sonic?

Recently I've taken a penchant to growing plants. I have successfully raised three passionfruit vines tall enough to reach my ceiling. They shall be fine candidates for my growing sapling army. Besides that, nature walks, cooking, visiting art galleries, and drawing exercises are some go tos.

What's the most unusual Sonic thing you own?

Shadow the Hedgehog for the Gamecube? That game certainly is a trip, there's so much going on in the game that sometimes the dramatic parts end up being funny or disorienting.

If you could go to dinner with one Sonic character, who would it be and why?

Rouge. I mean, she's had connections with every other faction and villain in the Sonic-verse at some point. That would have to lead to some interesting conversations. Plus, she likes gelato, too.

What kind of animal would you be in Sonic's universe?

Sea turtle? Pretty sure the only way to escape Eggman's tyranny at this point would be to move to a deep ocean trench. Sure, the octopuses have ears, but… EARS!

ART EVAN STANLEY

ART DIANA SKELLY

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE